

**Remarks**

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated as mailed February 9, 2007 and the documents cited therewith. After the above amendments have been made, the present application contains claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-20, 22-28, 30-37, 39-44, and 46-48. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16-19, 22, 24, 30, 31, 33, 37, 42, and 46 have been amended. Claims 5, 15, 21, 29, 38, and 45 have been canceled.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of the claim 17 is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-4, 19-20, 24-27, 33, 35-36, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Qian et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0145275, hereinafter "Qian"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"a placeholder formed in the portal to represent the at least one detachable portlet when detached, wherein the placeholder is formed in response to the at least one detachable portlet being detached."

The Office Action on page 5 in the rejection of claim 5 admits that Qian fails to teach a placeholder representing the detached portlet. Shahrabaki et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2004/0113948, hereinafter "Shahrabaki") was cited in the Office Action for teaching a windowed environment comprising a placeholder in rejecting claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that Shahrabaki does not teach or suggest a placeholder, nor does Qian or Shahrabaki teach or suggest a placeholder formed in the portal to represent the at least one detachable portlet

when detached and wherein the placeholder is formed in response the at least one detachable portlet being detached as recited in amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the placeholder in amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the tab-head in Shahrabaki. In paragraph [0018], last sentence, Shahrabaki recites:

“A tab-strip control presents information in a panel of a window using tabs with tab-heads in a tab-strip border or navigation bar; a visible tab-head can be selected to make a hidden tab appear in the panel.”

Additionally, in paragraph [0024] Shahrabaki recites:

“FIG. 2 shows an example of multitab-window user interface with detachable tabs. A main window 200 includes multiple panels, one of which provides a tab-strip control. The tab-strip includes a currently visible tab 205 and several hidden tabs with tab-heads shown in a tab-strip border 210, such as tab-head 215. The tab-heads in the tab-strip border 210 correspond to tabs in the panel of the window 200 such that selecting a tab-head causes the corresponding tab to brought forward, displaying the tab's content in the panel and hiding the previously displayed tab.”

Applicant respectfully submits that the tabs in Shahrabaki are distinguishable from the portlets in Qian. The portlets in Qian are always visible in the portal page. In contrast, Shahrabaki teaches a currently visible tab 205 and several hidden tabs with tab-heads shown in a tab-strip border 210. Accordingly, only one tab is visible at a time. A tab's contents are displayed in the panel in response to selecting a tab-head corresponding to the tab. The selected tab's contents are then displayed in the panel and the previously displayed tab is hidden from view. This is contrary to the portal page of Qian where the portlets are always visible in the particular portal page and the tab-heads in Figure 1 of Qian are not associated with the portlets in the portal page. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Shahrabaki and Qian and there is no teaching or suggestion in either Qian or Shahrabaki how the tab-heads of Shahrabaki would be used as placeholder for the portlets of Qian.

Even if it were proper to combine the teachings of Qian and Shahrabaki, they still would not provide the present invention as recited in amended claim 1. As indicated above in the

recitation from Shahrabaki, the tab-heads are always visible to permit a user to select a tab-head to cause the corresponding tab to be brought forward and displayed in the panel. Accordingly, the tab-heads are not placeholders for a detached portlet or even a detached tab in Shahrabaki.

Additionally, Shahrabaki teaches that the tab-heads are shown in a tab-strip border located at the border of the displayed page and are merely used to select the associated tab to cause the tab to be brought forward for displaying the panel. Thus, the tab-head of Shahrabaki is not a placeholder in a portal that represents a place or area in the portal where a portlet being represented by the placeholder would be displayed in the portal page if not detached as provided by the present invention as recited in the claims. Furthermore, as recited in amended claim 1, the placeholder is formed in response to the at least one detachable portlet being detached. Accordingly, the placeholder is not always visible and is only visible or formed when the corresponding portlet is detached. In contradistinction, the tab-head of Shahrabaki is always present in the tab-strip border so that the associated tab can be selected.

For all of these reasons, amended claim 1 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki, whether considered individually or combined, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Qian, these claims contain additional features which further patentably distinguish over Qian. Additionally, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and by virtue of that dependency, contain all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-4 are also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claims 2-4 is respectfully solicited.

Turning now to the rejection of claim 19-20, 24-27, 33, 35-36, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Qian, independent claims 19, 24 and 33 have been amended to recite similar features to independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claims 19, 24 and 33 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki, whether considered individually or combined, for the same reasons as discussed with respect to independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 19, 24 and 33 is respectfully solicited.

With regard to claims 20, 25-27, 35-36, and 41, claim 20 depends directly from independent claim 19; claims 25-27 depend directly from independent claim 24; and claims 35-36 and 41 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 33. Because of these dependencies, these dependent claims contain all of the features of the referenced independent claim. Therefore, claims 20, 25-27, 35-36, and 41 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrbabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 5, 7-8, 10-15, 18, 21, 23, 28-29, 31-32, 34, 37-38, 42-45, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrbabaki. As previously discussed, Qian teaches a system and method for portal rendering where a portal page 10 may simultaneously present a plurality of portlets as shown in Figure 1 of Qian. In contrast, Shahrbabaki teaches a multi tab-window user interface wherein only a single tab is displayed in a panel at a time and a tab-head corresponding to another tab is selected to display the associated tab. The previously displayed tab is then hidden as indicated in paragraph [0024] of Shahrbabaki. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Qian or Shahrbabaki how the portlet rendering system of Qian would be modified by the multi tab-window user interface of Shahrbabaki. Applicant respectfully submits that portlets are distinguishable from the tabs of Shahrbabaki and the placeholder of the present invention as recited in the claims is distinguishable from the tab-heads of Shahrbabaki. The tab-head of Shahrbabaki are clearly not placeholders in a portal as provided by the embodiments of the present invention as recited in the claims.

Even if it were proper to combine the teachings of Qian and Shahrbabaki, they still would not provide the embodiments of the present invention as recited in the claims. Claim 7 has been amended to recite: "a communication tunnel formable between the placeholder and the detached portlet for communications with the detached portlet through the portal." Paragraph

[0021] of Shahrabaki was cited for teaching a communication tunnel between a placeholder and a detached portlet. As previously discussed, Applicant respectfully submits that the placeholder of the present invention as recited in the claims is patentably distinguishable over the tab-heads of Shahrabaki. A placeholder represents a place or an area in a portal where the portlet corresponding to the placeholder would be displayed if not detached. The tab-heads of Shahrabaki are presented in a tab-strip border 210 (Figure 2 of Shahrabaki) along an edge or border of the display and are always visible in the multitab-window user interface of Shahrabaki. Additionally, Shahrabaki in paragraph [0021] recites:

Transforming the designated tab into the second window can involve presenting the second window above the first window in a user-specified location to facilitate side-by-side comparison. "Transforming the designated tab into the second window can also involve retaining a functional connection between the second window and a navigation element in the first window. The navigation element can be a tab-head corresponding to the designated tab, and retaining a functional connection can involve retaining the corresponding tab-head in the tab-strip such that selection of the corresponding tab-head in the tab-strip activates the second window." (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Shahrabaki teaches that retaining the functional connection merely involved retaining the corresponding tab-head in the tab-strip so that selection of the corresponding tab-head in the tab-strip activates the second window. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Shahrabaki of a communications tunnel formable between the placeholder and the detached portlet for communications with the detached portlet through the portal as provided by the embodiment of the present invention as recited in claim 7. Additionally, claim 7 depends directly from independent claim 1. By virtue of this dependency, claim 7 includes all of the features of independent claim 1. Therefore, for all of the reasons discussed above, claim 7 is respectfully submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 8 and 10, claim 10 recites similar features to claim 7. Additionally, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. Because of this dependency, claims 8 and 10 include all of the features of independent claim 1. Therefore, these claims are also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and

Shahrbabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims is respectfully solicited.

Turning now to the rejection of independent claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrbabaki, claim 11 has been amended to recite similar features to independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 11 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrbabaki for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 11 is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

With regard to the rejection of claims 12-14 and 18, these claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over Qian and Shahrbabaki. For example, claim 18 has been amended to recite similar features to dependent claim 7. Further, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 11, and by virtue of that dependency, contain all of the features of independent claim 11. Therefore, these claims are submitted to also be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrbabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claim 23, claim 23 depends directly from independent claim 19. As a result of this dependency, claim 23 includes all of the features of independent claim 19. Therefore, claim 23 is also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrbabaki for the same reasons as discussed with respect to independent claim 19. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 23 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 28, 31, and 32, these claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over the cited documents. Additionally, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 24. As previously discussed, claim 24 has been amended to patentably distinguish over Qian and Shahrbabaki. Therefore, claims 28, 31, and 32 are also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrbabaki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 28, 31, and 32 is respectfully requested.

Turning now to the rejection of claims 34 and 37, these claims recite additional feature that further patentably distinguish over Qian and Shahrbabaki. For example, claim 37 has been

amended to recite similar features to claim 7. Additionally, these claims depend directly from independent claim 33. As previously discussed, independent claim 33 as amended patentably distinguishes over Qian and Shahrabaki, whether considered individually or combined. Therefore, claims 34 and 37 are also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 34 and 37 is respectfully solicited.

Turning now to the rejection of independent claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrabaki, claim 42 has been amended to recite similar features to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 42 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki for the same reason as discussed with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of independent claim 42 is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 43, 44 and 48, these claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over the cited documents. For instances, claim 48 recites similar features to claim 7. Additionally, claims 43, 44 and 48 depend directly from independent claim 42, and by virtue of that dependency, contain all of the features of independent claim 42. Claims 43, 44 and 48 are, therefore, also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Shahrabaki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 6, 9, 16-17, 22, 30, 39, and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrabaki and further in view of Becker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,981,223, hereinafter "Becker"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 recites: "the placeholder comprises a reattach feature to reattach the detached portlet to the portal in response to activating the reattach feature." As previously discussed, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion that Qian and Shahrabaki may be combined. Additionally, the Office Action on page 6 admits that Qian and Shahrabaki fail to teach that the placeholder comprises a reattach feature. On page 6 of the Office Action, Becker was cited for teaching a multiple messaging window management system wherein a main window comprises a reattach feature (Figure 13-Dock Option 1204) to reattach (Dock) the detached window pane to the portal

in response to activating the reattach feature (Figure 13, Column 19, lines 55-57 of Becker).  
Becker in column 19, lines 53-59 recites:

“While the user interface of FIGS. 12 and 13 is similar to the user interface of FIG. 1, there are some differences of note. For example, a toggle switch 1204 marked “DOCK OPTION” is used to alternately dock and undock all window pane sets. The undocked window pane sets 1304 and 1306 may be repositioned as desired using, for example, mouse controls...”

Accordingly, Becker merely teaches that window pane sets 1304 and 1306 may be separated using the toggle switch 1204 marked “DOCK OPTION” and then repositioned using a mouse. Applicant respectfully submits that Becker does not teach or suggest that a placeholder is formed to take the place of the undocked window pane set. This would be contrary to the teachings of Becker, wherein Becker teaches that the window pane sets can be repositioned using mouse controls. Replacing one of the window panes with a placeholder would defeat this function of Becker. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that a person of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teaching of Becker with Qian and Shahrabaki.

Even if it were proper to combine Qian, Shahrabaki and Becker, they still would not provide the embodiments of the present invention as recited in the claims. As indicated above, claim 6 recites: “the placeholder comprises a reattach feature to reattach the detached portlet to the portal in response to activating the reattach feature.” In contrast, Becker, as just discussed, does not teach or suggest that the undocked window pane is formed as a placeholder as provided by the present invention as recited in the claims. Claim 6 also depends directly from independent claim 1, and by virtue of that dependency, contains all of the features of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Becker adds nothing to the teachings of Qian and Shahrabaki so as to render independent claim 1 unpatentable. Therefore, claim 6 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian, Shahrabaki and Becker, whether considered individually or combined, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 6 is respectfully solicited.

With regard to the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrabaki and further in view of Becker, claim 9 has been amended to recite



similar features to dependent claim 6. Additionally, claim 9 depends indirectly from independent claim 1, and by virtue of that dependency, contains all of the features of independent claim 1 and all intervening claims. Therefore, claim 9 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited documents, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 9 is respectfully solicited.

Turning now to the rejection of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrabaki and in further view of Becker, claims 16 and 17 recite similar features to claims 6 and 9. Additionally, claims 16 and 17 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 11. Because of this dependency, claims 16 and 17 include all of the features of independent claim 11. Applicant respectfully submits that Becker adds nothing to the teachings of Qian and Shahrabaki so as to render independent claim 11 unpatentable. Claims 16 and 17 are, therefore, also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited documents, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 16 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Shahrabaki and further in view of Becker, claim 22 recites similar features to claims 6 and 9. Additionally, claim 22 depends directly from independent claim 19 and by virtue of that dependency, contains all of the features of independent claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that Becker adds nothing to the teachings of Qian and Shahrabaki so as to render independent claim 19 unpatentable. Therefore, claim 22 is submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian, Shahrabaki and Becker. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 22 is respectfully solicited.

Regarding the rejection of claims 30, 39, and 46-47, these claims recite similar features to dependent claims 6 and 9. Additionally, claim 30 depends directly from independent claim 24; claim 39 depends directly from independent claim 33; and claims 46-47 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 42. Because of these dependencies, these claims contain all of the features of the respective referenced independent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that Becker adds nothing to the teachings of Qian and Shahrabaki so as to render independent claims 24, 33 and 42 unpatentable. Therefore, claims 30, 39, and 46-47 are also submitted to be

patentably distinguishable over Qian, Shahrabaki and Becker, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of these claims is respectfully solicited.

Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qian in view of Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0188163, hereinafter "Fischer"). Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Qian or Fischer that they may be combined so as to provide the present invention as recited in claim 40 and such motivation only comes from a reading of Applicant's specification. Even if it were proper to combine Qian and Fischer, they still would not provide the present invention as recited in claim 40. Claim 40 depends directly from independent claim 33, and by virtue of that dependency, contains all of the features of independent claim 33. Applicant respectfully submits that Fischer adds nothing to the teachings of Qian so as to render independent claim 33 unpatentable. Therefore, claim 40 is also submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Qian and Fischer, whether considered individually or combined, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 40 is respectfully solicited.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment or anticipates finally rejecting any claim of the present application, a telephone interview is requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

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